The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Tuesday, September 24, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on the S. 1724, Freedom from Government Competition Act of 1996.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 1996, at 9:30 a.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on tribal sovereign immunity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, at 9 a.m. to hold a hearing to discuss Social Security reform.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SUSPEND THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, pursuant to rule 5, paragraph 1 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give written notice to suspend rule 28 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, titles 3 and 6 of the Budget Act and all provisions of the budget resolutions for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3610, the DOD appropriations bill.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES' RELATIONSHIP WITH NORTH KOREA

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the Members of Congress who has contributed significantly more than most of us is Congressman TONY HALL.

His emphasis on helping people in need has sharpened the conscience of many policymakers, though it has not sharpened it enough.

He has provided leadership in areas that most Members of Congress ignore, such as Eritrea.

Recently he went to North Korea, and he testified before the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

It is a remarkable insight into the leadership that is needed in regard to the tense situation in Korea.

Nowhere do we have as many troops facing each other as we do between North Korea and South Korea and that problem is compounded by the fact that there is no communication between the two countries.

Mr President, I ask that Congressman HALL's remarks be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

TESTIMONY OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TONY P. HALL

Good morning. I want to thank you for inviting me to testify today, Mr. Chairman, and to thank both you and Senator Robb for the focus you are bringing to the United States' relationship with North Korea.

I am convinced that our increasing contacts with North Korea can only benefit America's interests—and make the job of the 37,000 American troops stationed along the border with South Korea easier. And I am hopeful that our contacts also will help the people of North Korea who have suffered in their decades-long isolation, and are hurting badly today.

Our humanitarian work, our progress in dismantling North Korea's nuclear reactor and on missile technology controls, and the unprecedented joint investigation by U.S. and North Korean soldiers into the fate of missing servicemen—all of these mark a dramatic turn-around in a relationship that is in its fifth decade of military tension.

I believe our nation owes special thanks for these changes to former President Jimmy Carter, whose personal diplomacy laid the groundwork for peace two years ago. Senator Paul Simon, who with Senator Frank Murkowski travelled to North Korea at a crucial moment, and who has championed ideas that hold great promise for the future of both countries, also deserves recognition for his work. We ought to build on their success in seizing this historic opportunity.

NORTH KOREA'S FOOD SHORTAGE

The hunger and malnutrition that I saw in North Korea is different than famines I've seen in my visits to other countries. This is the only country I can remember where grown children are shorter than their parents. The stunting is severe, especially when you compare North Koreans to their siblings and cousins in South Korea. And North Korea is the only place I've seen where parents and grandparents are giving their rations to their children in a desperate effort to protect them.

Today in North Korea, people are somehow surviving on rations of little more than 600 calories a day—just seven ounces of grain. That's not two bowls of rice, too much to die on, but not enough to live on and function. They are scrambling to supplement that starvation diet, but clearly having little success.

Nutritional standards say sedentary workers need about 2,000 calories a day to maintain their body weight—but people in North Korea cannot be sedentary. In two weeks, the harvest will be brought in with the aid of few animals and fewer machines. And if there is to be any hope for next year's harvest, the back-breaking work of rebuilding broken irrigation systems, roads, and other infrastructure must be completed.

Adults have lost an average of 30 pounds since January, according to Western aid workers I talked to there. According to our Ambassador to South Korea, James Laney, a North Korean soldier who defected to South Korea in mid-August weighed just 92 pounds. And there are many more measures of the extent of the suffering in North Korea in both the intelligence and in the unclassified reports of U.N. agencies, the International Red Cross, and charities that have visited North Korea.

For me, two things stand out in all of these measurements:

First, the bodies of most of the North Koreans that I saw are exhausted. Simply surviving this winter will be a tremendous physical challenge that many of them will not be able to meet.

Second, North Korea's land appears equally worn out. Food grows on any patch of land available—atop the rice paddy walls, along the shoulders of roads, in rivers' floodplains, on the slopes of steep hills. Land is not permitted to lie fallow, there is no investment in fertilizer and pesticides, deforestation leads to soil erosion that ruins once-productive land—and sorry yields are the result of it all.

North Korea's granaries were last full in 1992—but however self-inflicted the long-term problems may be, the country was overwhelmed by the worst natural disaster in its history last year. And this year, another severe flood struck the breadbasket provinces that produce 60 percent of North Korea's grain.

WHAT IS MISSING

What struck me most was not what I saw—but what was missing. There is an eerie silence in the capital, and in the villages that we visited in more than 20 hours on the road. You don't hear roosters crowing, and the air seems empty of birds—even of gulls in the seaside city of Haeju. You don't see cats, or rats, or cows or goats—or much sign of other animal life. Occasionally, in people's homes I saw dogs, but not a single puppy. According to some aid workers, the sight of a pregnant woman is increasingly rare, and a new maternity hospital never has more than 25 of its 250 beds filled. Certainly we saw no fat people—or anybody that bore much resemblance to their healthier siblings and cousins in South Korea.

Soldiers—and we saw a lot of individual soldiers throughout the capital and countryside—have the same hollow-cheeked look as civilians, and their uniforms hang very loosely on them. That may be the best evidence that most of North Korea's military isn't getting much more to eat than the rest of the people.

All of this added up to a nagging sense that we simply cannot know what is happening in North Korea. Aid workers speak in hushed tones when talk turns to what is happening in the mountains that make up 80 percent of North Korea. They can barely help the 1.5 million children and flood victims covered by the U.N.'s appeal for humanitarian aid; the remaining 20 million people are on their own.

Two American demographers, Nicholas Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute and Judith Banister, of the U.S. Census Bureau, have done statistical analysis of North Korea's population—and with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit a letter for the record that Mr. Eberstadt is preparing. The gist of their finding is that half a million people are ''missing.'' That is either (1) a statistical blip; or (2) a sign of severe changes in the birth and death rates. We cannot know which is true, but I believe the possibility of something that would affect 500,000 people deserves our concern.

NORTH KOREA'S OWN EFFORTS

I also want to comment briefly on the efforts that North Korea is making to ease suffering in its country. Its rations system now feeds the majority of the population, and by all accounts, it is meticulously fair. Ration cards measure out to three decimal points. A U.N. report issued Sept. 9 notes that sometimes there is not enough food to distribute the second of two monthly rations, but people do seem to share equally in the food available.

The system also appears to be exceptionally efficient. The first U.S. flag ship to visit

North Korea since the war arrived on Wednesday, Aug. 21—and the rice and cornmeal it carried already was being distributed when I visited two rural provinces on Thursday, Aug. 22.

Other North Korean efforts are more troubling, however. According to Monday's report, some 30 to 90 percent of the nation's livestock have been turned over to individuals for tending or slaughtering; and local provinces have gotten a green-light to barter their timber and other resources for food (primarily with China)—increasing deforestation and reducing the fuel available this winter.

THE JULY 1996 FLOOD

So far, North Korea's suffering is largely caused by the 1995 disaster—a massive, 100-year flood that bore striking similarities to our own Midwest flood of just three years ago. People already bombarded with admonitions to ''work harder, eat less'' have high hopes that the 1996 harvest will be good.

It won't be.

United Nations experts who travelled to the region I saw just after I left reported this week that much of the country's breadbasket region—which produces 60 percent of its grain, and which I visited last month—was under water for five days in July. Rainfall was 3–5 times normal, overwhelming irrigation canals and bursting dams. To put the torrential rains into some perspective, it was twice what North Carolina and Virginia endured in Hurricane Fran's aftermath—and it lasted five times longer. And the rains came at a crucial time in crop development—stunting the growth of corn, and robbing rice stalks of their nutritional kernels.

Along just one 500-mile irrigation network, there were 369 breaks. A report issued by the International Red Cross, UNICEF, and several U.N. agencies puts the likely crop losses in the half-million acres irrigated by this system at $300 million. And broken sea dykes added to this misery, washing salt water over land and poisoning it for this year and probably several more.

INTERNATIONAL AID

The international community is lending a hand—but only barely. China, Japan and the U.S. each have donated some $6 million to the current appeal. South Korea has given $3 million, and promises far more if North Korea agrees to peace talks that President Clinton and President Kim proposed in April.

With the notable exception of Sweden, though, the response of most European nations has been nothing less than a ''let 'em starve'' pittance that shames the reputation of European people. I spoke with the director of U.S. AID, Brian Atwood, about this—and he plans to raise the matter with his European Community counterpart in October.

In all, just over half of the United Nations' current emergency appeal has been filled. It last until March 1997, but the food-for-work projects to rebuild irrigation systems and other infrastructure must begin immediately after the harvest in order to stave off another disaster in 1997.

NGOs are doing their best to respond, but they are hampered by restrictions on South Korean individuals—many who have family ties to the North—and by North Korea's petulant insistence that NGOs bring food, and not just people. Without eyewitness accounts, without reporting by independent journalists, NGOs simply cannot raise the money they need to fund their operations. U.S. organizations like World Vision and Mercy Corps are doing their best to help, and the U.S. government should lend its weight to their efforts.

In every disaster, NGOs are the first to respond—the people who work with the most vulnerable groups, and who stick around long enough to do the long-term work needed. Governments—including the U.S. Government—need to do more. But it will be the work of private citizens, and the organizations they support, that will make or break North Korea's recovery. This is my strong conviction, and I raised it with both North and South Korean leaders.

CONCLUSION

Despite the seemingly endless stream of bad news about North Korea, I remain hopeful. My talks with North Korea's leaders were productive, and I am convinced that good-faith efforts by the U.S. and other nations will produce more good-faith efforts by North Korea. It is not a quick process, but it is one whose pace is increasing, and it is our best hope for lending momentum to the progressive factions inside North Korea.

I am hopeful for one other reason: a UNICEF project that represents an historic joint effort by North and South Korea. Like all UNICEF projects, the Oral Rehydration Salts plant will be a Godsend to children. The packets of gluocse and salt that this plant will manufacture are used around the world as a circuit-breaker in the spiral of disease and death. If you care about suffering children, and had just three wishes, Oral Rehydration Salts would be one of those wishes.

North Korea was self-sufficient in producing this life-saving product—until the flood swept away its building and equipment in 1995. It has since donated a building for the plant to UNICEF and brought it up to World Health Organization standards—but UNICEF still lacked the money needed to equip the plant.

Until this week.

When I met South Korea's Foreign Minister, Gong Ro Myung en route home, I raised this urgent need with him. At the time, my hopes that South Korea would help were pretty low. But despite the loss of seats in Parliament that ensued after South Korea's donation of humanitarian aid ended in insults by North Korea; and despite public outrage recently reinvigorated by violent clashes between students and police, Minister Gong carried my request to President Kim Young Sam. And despite President Kim's difficult position as the country's first democratically elected leader—he pledged the money needed to finish this project.

His is an example that should inspire political leaders here, and in other capitals. I hope it will mark a determination by charities and private individuals to overcome the challenges of helping people in North Koreaa as well.

MISSING SERVICEMEN

Finally, I cannot close without expressing my serious concern about the persistent trickle of rumors that missing American servicemen have been sighted in North Korea. I personally raised questions about a pilot shot down during the Korean War, and conveyed the resolve of Americans to help the families of missing servicemen learn the answers to their question.

I know that this Committee's Chairman, along with Senators John Kerry, Nancy Kassebaum, Hank Brown, and Chuck Robb have devoted considerable attention to these questions, as has Senator John McCain. Several of my House colleagues also have worked hard on these issues—especially Congressmen Bill Richardson, Pete Peterson and Lane Evans. I am convinced that this persistent attention, and the ability of Americans in military service today to work on the ground in North Korea, offer the best hope possible.

Four decades of isolation have not produced answers about servicemen missing since the Korean War. I believe it is time to try a new strategy; and I hope that North Korea's new openness is the silver lining in the black cloud of the terrible suffering the North Korean people are enduring.

Again, thank you for holding this hearing, and for inviting me to testify.●

TRIBUTE TO AL SMITH

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an icon of Kentucky journalism. For over 20 years, Al Smith has been part of what he calls ''front-porch, cracker-barrel kind of discussion'' on Kentucky radio. But part of that career, and part of a Kentucky tradition, has ended with his announcement of retirement.

Albert P. Smith, Jr., was born in Sarasota, FL, but has lived in Kentucky since 1958. When Al was 15, he entered the American Legion's high school oratorical contest. Living with his parents and grandparents in Hendersonville, TN, he received coaching for the contest from his grandmother and won the top national prize, a $4,000 college scholarship. He then traveled to New England, the Midwest and the South giving the speech in cities throughout the region. It was on this trip that Al sharpened his speaking skills.

In the mid 1960's, Al bought a 10 percent interest in the Russellville News-Democrat and Leader. That interest eventually grew to his ownership of six weekly newspapers. In 1974, while Al was editor of the News-Democrat, he became a household name as host of the radio program, ''Comment on Kentucky.'' Once a week, he would drive 180 miles to host the show. The man who hired Al to do that job, O. Leonard Press, told the Lexington Herald-Leader, ''I can't imagine the Kentucky landscape without Al.''

Al is still host and producer of ''Comment on Kentucky,'' Kentucky Educational Television's longest-running show. But last month, Al retired from his job as host of ''PrimeLine with Al Smith'' which is broadcast statewide via radio. He never planned to retire from the show; but recent health problems have necessitated a change in his busy lifestyle. His regular listeners will miss him greatly.

But perhaps Al's biggest fan is his wife of 29 years, Martha Helen. In an interview with the Lexington Herald-Leader, Martha Helen said of Al, ''I still believe Al is the most interesting person I ever met.''

Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to Al Smith for his dedication to Kentucky journalism and I wish him great happiness in his retirement.●

RECENT EVENTS IN INDONESIA

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, like many Senators I have been concerned about human rights in Indonesia and East Timor for many years. I was therefore pleased when the Clinton administration indicated on July 25 that it had added armored personnel carriers to the list of military equipment